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NEW AGE MOVEMENT

New-look Jets expected to dominate New York football landscape while big change under center for Giants approaches. Both Big Blue and Gang Green kick off the 2019 season on Sunday. 13-14

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION GETTY IMAGES & ISTOCK

THINGS
TO
KNOW

Two investigations found school failed to protect students.

The U.S. Department of Education has imposed a record \$4.5 million fine on Michigan State University for what it called a failure to protect students from sexual abuse and ordered the university to make changes.

The Education Department had launched two separate investigations into the university after the former sports doctor for the school and USA Gymnastics, Larry Nassar, was accused of sexual abuse by more than 350 women.

Nassar was sentenced in two different trials to 300 years in prison for having abused young female gymnasts. Prosecutors said he abused more than 265 people, many through his practice at Michigan State University.

"Michigan State University did not adequately respond to complaints against Dr. Nassar and (former university) Dean Strampel and thereby subjected students to a sexually hostile environment that denied them access to and the ability to benefit from their education," U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said in a call with reporters.

The university had come under public fire for its handling of the

DOE slaps record fine on Michigan State University over Nassar abuse scandal



Larry Nassar, a former team USA Gymnastics doctor. REUTERS IMAGE

1 "Too many people in power knew about the behaviors and the complaints and yet the predators continued on the payroll and abused even more students."

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

Nassar case. Athletics had complained about Nassar since the 1990s but the school did not launch an investigation until 2014.

"Too many people in power knew about the behaviors and the complaints and yet the

predators continued on the payroll and abused even more students," DeVos said.

Nassar's former boss, Strampel, was arrested in March 2018 and charged with criminal sexual misconduct. He was sentenced to a year



Michigan State University student union building. GETTY IMAGE

in jail for neglect of duty and misconduct in office, according to media reports.

"Dr. Strampel is appealing his conviction. I cannot comment further until the appellate process has run its course," his lawyer, John Dakmak, wrote in an email.

The university agreed to a number of fixes, including an overhaul of its procedures for Title IX, the federal civil rights law that bars discrimination on the basis of sex, and potentially firing employees who failed to take action in the face of complaints about Nassar and Strampel, the Education De-

partment said.

"The agreements with U.S. Department of Education further remind us that we failed survivors and our com-

\$425M

The university agreed in May to pay \$425 million to 332 of Nassar's victims and to set aside another \$75 million for any future plaintiffs.

munity ... While we have made some improvements, it's by no means sufficient or the end of the road," Samuel

L. Stanley Jr., Michigan State University's current president, said in a statement.

He said he had accepted a provost's resignation over the Education Department's investigations and published a list of other university employees whose actions the school would be reviewing.

The scandal had earlier led to resignations of top officials at Michigan State, including the school's former president. The university agreed in May to pay \$425 million to 332 of Nassar's victims and to set aside another \$75 million for any future plaintiffs. REUTERS

Facebook launches dating service in United States

2 Facebook Inc. is launching its dating services in the United States, the social network said on Thursday, sending its shares up 2 percent. The company said users will be able to integrate their Instagram account with Facebook dating profile and add Instagram followers to their Secret Crush lists, a feature that allows users to explore potential romantic relationships within their friend circle. The service would be optional for Facebook

users, the company said, adding that dating activity of users will not appear on their profile or news feed. Users can make the call on who gets to see their dating profile, Facebook said. Shares of Tinder owner Match Group were down nearly 6 percent on the news, while Match's parent group IAC was down more than 3 percent. Facebook expects to launch the dating service in Europe by early 2020, in addition to the 20 countries where it is presently available. REUTERS

British PM Johnson's brother quits government over Brexit

3 British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan to kick off what is in effect an election campaign casting parliament as the enemy of Brexit was overshadowed on Thursday when his younger brother quit the government, citing the national interest. As the United Kingdom spins toward an election, Brexit remains up in the air more than three years after Britons voted to leave the bloc in a 2016 referendum. Options range from a turbulent "no-deal"

exit to abandoning the whole endeavor. Johnson's brother, Jo, resigned as a junior business minister and said he was stepping down as a lawmaker for their Conservative Party. "In recent weeks I've been torn between family loyalty and the national interest — it's an unresolvable tension & time for others to take on my roles," he tweeted. The 47-year-old, who campaigned for Britain to remain a member of the E.U. in the 2016 referendum. REUTERS

Loch Ness monster might just be a giant eel: Scientists

4 Scotland's fabled Loch Ness monster could possibly be a giant eel, scientists said on Thursday after an intensive analysis of traces of DNA in the Loch's icy waters. The results ruled out the presence of large animals such as dinosaurs, they said. But there was a lot of eel DNA in the Loch, Professor Neil Gemmell, a geneticist from New Zealand's University of Otago, told reporters. "Eels are very plentiful in the loch system — every single

sampling site that we went to pretty much had eels and the sheer volume of it was a surprise," Gemmell said. "We can't exclude the possibility that there's a giant eel in Loch Ness but we don't know whether these samples we've collected are from a giant beast or just an ordinary one." Gemmell noted however that despite the idea of a giant eel having been around for decades, nobody had ever caught a giant one in the Loch. REUTERS



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NEWS

Upside: Better accessibility coming to stops along 14th.

65QFT / DEVIN GANNON
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While the L train slow-down has gone largely unnoticed so far by commuters, the MTA is throwing an unexpected wrench in next weekend's travel plans. The L train will not run between Manhattan and Brooklyn from Friday, Sept. 13, to early Monday, Sept. 16, to make space for new accessibility projects, the agency announced on Wednesday. The shut-down allows the MTA to install an escalator at the Union Square station and make the L and F, M platform at 14th Street-6th Avenue more accessible.

Next weekend, there will be no L train service

Expect more cuts to L train service this fall



between 8th Avenue in Manhattan and Broadway Junction in Brooklyn, starting at around 10:45 p.m. on Sept. 13 to 5 a.m. on Sept. 16. And, for three to five weeks in October and November (with the dates still to be determined), the L train will not stop at 8th Avenue or 14th Street-6th Avenue stations, with service ending at Union Square on nights and weekends.

The service disruptions join previously announced changes coming to the L train this fall. There will be no overnight service between Lorimer Street and Broadway Junction on

weeknights from Sept. 23 to Sept. 27 and from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 between 11:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. The L train will also not run between Lorimer and Broadway Junction on the weekends of Oct. 4 to Oct. 6, Jan. 3 to Jan. 6, Jan. 10 to Jan. 12, Jan. 17 to Jan. 18, and Jan. 24 to Jan. 26. Free shuttle service will run between the stations during the closures.

According to the agency, the accessibility projects are possible because rehab work on the Canarsie Tunnel is "ahead of schedule." At the 14th Street-6th Avenue station, the project will add two

elevators from the street to the mezzanine and an additional two from the mezzanine to the platform. The agency said the work will start on or before Dec. 31, 2020, and take at most two years to complete.

On the F, M platform, the MTA has preliminary plans to add two elevators to connect to the street level, the mezzanines, platforms, and to the passageway leading to the station on 7th Avenue. This project will be a part of the 2020-2024 Capital Plan proposal, which needs funding approvals to start construction within those years.

"While the L Subway Project was initiated because of the damage from Superstorm Sandy, it was designed to address many other critical needs — namely, accessibility," Alex Elegudin, NYC Transit's senior adviser for system-wide accessibility, said in a statement.



BRIEF

Hit-and-run outside school injures 4 in Brownsville

A hit-and-run marred the first day of school in Brownsville, Brooklyn, Thursday morning.

Police say four people were injured in the crash, which involved two cars in front of P.S./I.S. 323 at around 1 a.m. The accident happened after a Chevy Impala traveled the wrong way on Chester Street before crashing into a Nissan Altima at Sutter Avenue. The Nissan had up to four occupants inside and it was reported that the vehicle was struck on the passenger side. Some parked vehicles were also impacted by the crash, according to reports. One 27-year-old man was reportedly in critical condition, whereas other occupants of the car had less serious injuries, ABC reported.

The force of the Impala flipped the car, which then caught on fire. When officials arrived on the scene, occupants of the Impala had already fled.

Residents told ABC that the

area does not have speed bumps, which they think could be part of the issue.

Neighbor Louis Burns told ABC, "This block doesn't have speed bumps, and a lot of drivers tend to pass through here doing exorbitant speeds without any consideration that they're children in a school [zone]."

Another resident, Anthony Mark, told ABC, "It's unfortunate, because even on that corner, I think we need a speed bump over there ... Because things always happen in this area."

News of the dramatic crash comes within a day of Mayor de Blasio announcing an increase in NYPD enforcement in school zones as part of the Vision Zero plan. The other part of the plan is to up the number of speed cameras in school zones to cut down on traffic violations. It was not clear if the area around P.S./I.S. 323 has speed cameras or not.

Outlets reported that no one involved in the incident has been identified. As of Thursday afternoon, the investigation was still ongoing. **BECCA GLASSER-BAKER**

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CA jury acquits man of 36 deaths in 'Ghost Ship' warehouse fire

The 2016 blaze was deadliest U.S. building fire since 2003.

A California jury on Thursday acquitted one of two defendants charged with manslaughter in an Oakland warehouse fire that killed 36 people but failed to reach a verdict on charges against a second man, defense attorney Curtis Briggs said.

Briggs said the jury acquitted his client, Max Harris, 29, and failed to reach a verdict against Harris' co-defendant, Derrick Almena, 49.

The outcome marked a defeat for Alameda County prosecutors, who had accused Almena and Harris of creating a ripe environment for the Dec. 2, 2016, fire through their negligence, pointing to the 10,000-square-foot building's lack of sprinklers and smoke detectors.

Attorneys for Almena and Harris in closing ar-



REUTERS

guments last month said police, fire and child-welfare officials visited the building, which was nicknamed the "Ghost Ship," before the fire and never ordered tenants out because of any risks at the building, according to Northern California public radio station KQED.

The blaze, which erupted during an electronic dance music party that drew scores of visitors, was the deadliest fire at a building in the United States since 100 people died in 2003 in a fire at a Rhode Island nightclub.

Almena and Harris had each faced a maximum sentence of 39 years in prison if they were convicted.

They have been held in jail in lieu of \$750,000 bail each since their June 2017 arrest, according to Alameda County online inmate records.

With his acquittal, Harris is due to be released from jail, which marked an abrupt reversal of fortune from last year when he and Almena were close to a plea deal that would have sent each man to prison for several years. **REUTERS**

Border crossings drop as US-Mexico tariff deal set to expire

Mexico is preparing to set out the steps it has taken to curb illegal immigration under a deal struck with U.S. President Donald Trump in June to cut the number of Central American migrants traveling through Mexico to the U.S. border.

Under the accord, which the Mexican government has said expires on Thursday, Mexico vowed to curb U.S.-bound migration significantly to avert U.S. tariffs on Mexican exports.

Mexico will provide details on the deal's status on Friday, ahead of a meeting between Mexican and U.S. officials in Washington on Sept. 10, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told a news conference on Thursday.

Trump has lauded the Mexican government for curbing flows since the



REUTERS

deal. By July, apprehensions at the U.S. southern border had dropped by about a third. Trump said that trend has continued.

"I want to thank Mexico, the Mexican government, their great president of Mexico, for helping us," he told reporters on Wednesday. "They're helping us in a very big way. Far bigger than anybody thought even possible."

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan said official data

on crossings at the U.S. southern border would be released next week.

"We're looking at a reduction of over 50 percent from May to today," he said on Wednesday.

Mexico's government has said it was doing well to meet U.S. demands to slow migration, and has resisted U.S. pressure to become a so-called safe third country.

That designation would force Central American asylum seekers to seek refuge in Mexico, rather than the United States.

Various new measures to discourage migration under Trump, such as sending asylum-seekers to Mexico to wait out lengthy applications for entry to the United States, have been met with legal challenges and backlash. **REUTERS**

Doctors Urge Knee Pain Sufferers

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After Years Of Intense Study, NYC Medical Clinic Finally Reveals It’s Best “Treatment Formula” For Helping Knee Arthritis Sufferers... Especially When So Many Other Treatments Have Failed

NEW YORK CITY - If you are even remotely interested in discovering how the latest scientific discoveries can possibly help your knee pain... then this is going to be the most exciting information you ever read.

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This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

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Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

So many had given up hope.

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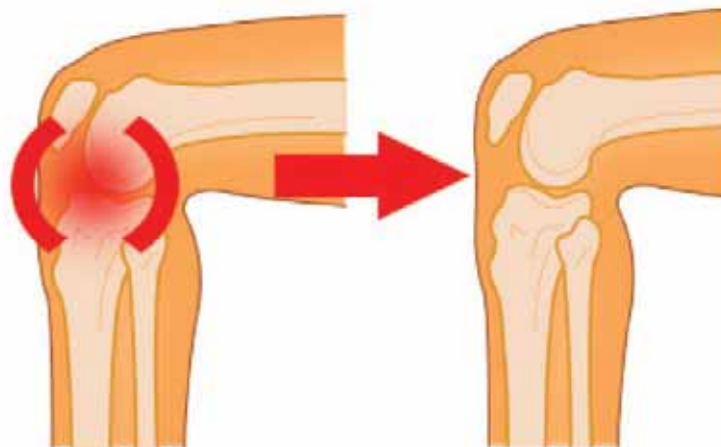
While I can’t give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: **PATIENT SELECTION.**

This means, **NYC Pain MD** has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that **NYC Pain MD** offers.

If you do not, **NYC Pain MD** will tell you what they think your best options are and help



NYC Pain MD “Treatment Formula” A protocol of advanced medical treatments that has already helped thousands.

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Once again, there is not enough space to go into detail about all these procedures... but here are some things you **MUST KNOW...**

Viscosupplementation is where a doctor introduces a gel-like medicine directly into the joint space. This helps to lubricate the joints often relieving some, most or even all of your pain. Results can last for 6 months to several years.

Many have had these treatments *without* good results. However, **NYC Pain MD** feels this is because doctors often do these “gel injections” without advanced imaging to guide them. Research shows they will often miss the joint. If the joint is missed... it is impossible for the treatment to work.

NYC Pain MD has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

The second thing you must know is... our treatment plans are custom made for every patient. And we have all these treatments

offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At **NYC Pain MD** your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

The ability to select the right patients and then have the potential to give them any or all of these treatments... with all the necessary medical technology... under one roof... has allowed **NYC Pain MD** to get better results than they thought possible.

Here’s What You Should Do Next

If you suffer with knee pain... and any of this made sense to you... **NYC Pain MD** would like to offer you a No-cost screening. That screening is the first step in our “Treatment Formula.”

You will get to see a doctor and ask any questions you have. Your doctor will take the first steps to see if you qualify for treatments and give you recommendations.

The best thing is... you will finally get direction. You will know what’s going on and what is your best course of action... step-by-step. The treatments will be explained in detail and you will breathe a big sigh of relief finally knowing what’s going on and what can or cannot be done.

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The mix of suspense and humor in 'IT CHAPTER TWO'

The famous 2017 adaptation of Stephen King's novel "IT" comes to its conclusion with a sequel that is once again directed by Andy Muschietti and produced by Barbara Muschietti. Ahead of the grand premiere on Sept. 6, Metro chatted with both of them. CRISTINA URRUTIA A.

I would like to start with the cast selection. How did they choose the artists so well and how did you get them to behave in the same way?

Andy Muschietti (AM): The physical similarity was very important for me. But above all, for them to have the same energy, or parts of the personality and characteristics of these children. Those were the two most important things for me. And the truth is that I had the pleasure of working with my favorite actors. Jessica (Chastain) was the first one to enter, even before finishing Chapter 1, she was very excited about the project. Bill Hader,

(James) McAvoy, James Ransone and the rest went through the casting.

One of the most disturbing scenes is when Beverly visits her old home in Derry and this creepy old woman appears. Tell us more about it.

AM: It is a scene that is born from the anticipation, construction, retention that becomes almost unbearable, until reaching an end point. The tension reaches an exaggerated point and in addition, there is a lot of humor. That mixture of suspense and humor always attracts me — and much more considering that the monster is a clown,

who does the worst things with a hint of macabre humor. That's why when it freezes in the middle of a smile, you don't know what's wrong with it.

When we see Mrs. Kersh, at the end of the hall, while Beverly is reading the letter with a smile, that is one of the moments I like the most. You are really establishing a game of complicity with the audience.

Your movies prioritize the grotesque and explicit over traditional "jumpscare" (a technique used in horror movies intended to scare the audience by surprising them). Why did you choose that path?

AM: I like both. As you can see in the movie there is construction, tension, there is also jumpscare. But I also like the explicit. I like so much to hide and generate tension with something that is hidden.

With the previous movie we learned that Bill Skarsgård scared the children on the Pennywise set. Did something similar happen this time?

Barbara Muschietti (BM): I would say that it is really impressive to see him with the costume and makeup. Even when he tries to be friendly and be part of the group, when he has his makeup on and measures two meters... it's awesome, it's really awesome. We did not do it on purpose this time, because they are all adults and profession-

al actors, but when he appears, everyone is mute. It is quite peculiar.

In addition, on the set, we have a black box where he prepares for the shooting. And when it opens everyone is silent. It really is an experience.

That is a primitive fear that I have had since I was little. And a little more adult fears include the ones of death, loneliness and machismo.

BM: I don't like guns and violence. It really is something I can't get used to.

How complicated was it to incorporate comic elements into a movie that is mainly traditional horror?

AM: It's not complicated, it's actually a tool to make the balance. When you have a comic scenario, it helps you to reconnect with the protagonists.

And, on the other hand, at the experience level, people relax with this humor. It is very difficult to maintain tension for a long time. People get tired and for the audience it is better to relax as soon as possible.



Director Andy Muschietti and producer Barbara Muschietti.
GETTY

You have devoted yourself to horror movies. Is there anything that scares you?

AM: There are many things. I'm afraid of cockroaches a lot.



the Grumble



ISTOCK

READER WRITE-INS:

WHAT???

I just saw a young couple stand on the corner of West 75th and Columbus for 10 minutes waiting for a car to pick them up, all while tracking it on their iPhone. Meanwhile, a gazillion yellow cabs rushed by. What am I missing here? Is this a fashion statement? Is it a millennium thing: "We don't ride yellow"? Yellow cab drivers are taking their lives because they can no longer make a living. Fact. They're one cornerstone of NYC. We should be supporting them. Hey, but what do I know; I'm a 76-year-old fart?

— John Elari, Metro New York reader

metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Take a day trip, sign up for something that will expand your mind or kick back with someone who brings out the best in you and make today memorable.



Taurus Being thorough with your plans will eliminate backtracking. Spend time with someone who encourages you to rigorously prioritize your time. Maintain balance and integrity.



Gemini Sit tight and watch what unfolds. Getting involved too quickly in someone else's plans will turn out to be a costly misadventure that could ruin the relationship.



Cancer Make plans with a loved one and do what you can to improve the relationship. A promise you make will encourage a positive change to your living arrangements.



Leo Stick to what you enjoy doing and to the people whom you can trust to be reasonable and reliable. Don't let someone from your past disrupt your life.



Virgo Live up to your promises. Consistency on your part will play a role in the way others react to you and the support you receive. Moderation will be in your best interest.



Libra Take an educational trip. Visit a place that will give insight into something you'd like to try. Expand your interests and teach people close to you what you've learned.



Scorpio Don't let your past interfere with your future. Someone will mislead you if given a chance. Concentrate on what you know, and trust your instincts to push you in the right direction.



Sagittarius Simplicity and moderation are essential if you want to avoid being compelled to make an unnecessary purchase, pay for someone else's poor judgment or get involved in something you shouldn't.



Capricorn You'll thrive on change, new beginnings and investment in your ideas and skills. Embrace what life has to offer and include someone as eager as you to excel.



Aquarius Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Do your wheeling and dealing and look for opportunities that will help you enhance your qualifications and skills. Concentrate on advancement.



Pisces You'll thrive on excitement and adventure, but do your homework before you jump into something. Someone will lavishly embellish the facts to entice you; be careful. **EUGENIA LAST**

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James Ransone on 'winning the Powerball' with his role in *IT Chapter Two*

We spoke with the actor ahead of the film's release this weekend.

PAT KING

James Ransone is having a hard time taking praise for these days. But, while looking at some of the projects he has been attached to lately, one could argue that the man is having a "moment" after years of work in the industry. After some scene-stealing moments in recent indie films like Sean Baker's "Tangerine," Ti West's Western "In the Valley of Violence," and even acting alongside Sean Penn in the Hulu series "The First," Ransone will be co-starring in one of the biggest films of the year, "IT Chapter Two." "My version of my own horror movie is to watch myself. It's so difficult to watch myself in anything," Ransone tells me one afternoon as I catch up with him over the phone. "I just learned that it's better to go, 'Oh, I'm gonna go to Barnes and Noble while this premiere is happening!'"

This kind of humility from the actor permeates throughout our conversation, but don't let it fool you. Ransone has been consistently putting in the work, and while in the past it may have only been evidenced on smaller screens, his role as Eddie in the conclusion of Andy Muschetti's re-telling of the Stephen King classic stands out amongst the film's stacked cast.

As he remembers, Ransone got the opportunity for the role by chance and has since been blown away by rabid fans clamoring to see the new film this weekend.

"I kind of live under a rock a little bit," Ransone says with a laugh. "So I had no idea of the size of the phenomenon it would be. In another way, I feel like I won the Powerball. There's a lot

of really talented and well-qualified actors that could have or should have played my part as much as I should have. It's luck at a certain point."

Ransone joins fellow cast members James McAvoy, Jessica Chastain, Jay Ryan, Isaiah Mustafa and Bill Hader to play the older versions of the Losers Club from the first film. For Ransone, trying to add to the original portrayal of Eddie (played to wound-up hypochondriac perfection by Jack Dylan Grazer) was both a challenge and a thrill to try and pull off.

"If you go back and watch the first one, I have never seen a kid talk that fast or react that fast and it's totally natural," he says of his admiration of the young actor. "He's a weird freak phenom. That stuff

way. I look at film differently than a performative aspect... but I was really scared because Andy Muschetti relied on me to do all of this improve with Bill Hader. Which I'm very happy to do, because that's what I did in Sean Baker's movies. But we would shoot that stuff in, like, a living room on an iPhone. The pressure is different because it was like, here's this guy who was on "SNL." That was the part that made it really good for me because I got to see how real comedians work in terms of on-the-fly stuff. I was really fortunate to work with Bill as someone who came from a sketch background because their whole thing is dependent on the entire joke working. It wasn't like he was trying to step over me or overshadow me."

Ransone more than meets the challenge of this role, as Eddie's journey is one of the more touching story lines of the film and his scenes with Hader provide the biggest laughs of the film. So, why is he taken back my compliment when I tell him that he seems to be on a creative tear as of late?

"What's really weird about you saying that is that I just had a baby this year," Ransone explains. "What's really cool about having him has freed me up to do stuff that I really enjoy doing creatively. I'm doing all sorts of weird stuff, man. I'm tie-dyeing all of these sweatsuits now and people are asking me to do brand collaborations. I'm drawing again. I feel like I'm not in a creative tear in acting, but I'm sure I'll get another job from this. I feel like I've kind of relaxed into my own. Ninety percent of that has to do with me having a kid. It's weird, I don't feel precious about it anymore. I just want to have fun doing it and whatever the results are, I have no control over anyway."



Bill Hader and James Ransone in "IT Chapter Two." BROOKE PALMER

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is not teachable... He's like a machine gun! I just remember being really impressed by his speed."

While getting into the role of Eddie was only part of the battle, Ransone felt the need to step up his game with the high pedigree of actors included in this ensemble cast. "The first couple of days, I felt really freaked out because McAvoy and Chastain are really highly trained classical actors. They're really good at that stuff and do their homework. I had gone to school for theater but eventually switched for fine art. I'm more of a fine art person, or at least am attracted to the visual arts in a different

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Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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Best Bets

NFL betting: Jets vs. Bills, Giants vs. Cowboys

Bills at Jets (-3)
Total: 41 points
The Le'Veon Bell signing was a coup for the Jets, and he should pay immediate dividends on Sunday against the Bills. Buffalo was a mediocre 16th in stopping the run last year. The well-rested Bell should be able to run through the holes opened up by guard Kelechi Osemele, who was brought in from Oakland back in March. Meanwhile, quarterback

Sam Darnold is expected to improve in his sophomore season with Jamison Crowder added to the mix at wide-out. The Bills' offense was painful to watch at times last year, as they registered just 16.8 points per game, 30th in the league. New York is no offensive dynamo, but Josh Allen and company could be hard-pressed to match scores with them.
The play: Jets spread



Giants at Cowboys (-7)
Total: 45.5 points
The Cowboys have won and covered in each of their last four meetings with the Giants, and the status quo should not be broken in their season-opening matchup. Travis Frederick returning to the offensive line after missing all of 2018 will only bolster one of the best units in the league.
As for Dallas' defense,

they seem to be the best-equipped team to handle Saquon Barkley. Their linebacking corps includes a healthy Sean Lee as well as Jaylon Smith and Leighton Vander Esch. Quarterback Eli Manning does not pose a serious threat to any legitimate NFL secondary anymore, especially without Odell Beckham Jr. at his disposal.
The play: Cowboys spread
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2019 PREVIEW



JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

PASSING OF THE TORCH?

2019 STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

.473
WINNING% LAST YEAR

SCHEDULE RANK

29th
TOUGHEST SCHEDULE

METRO'S PREDICTED RECORD

5-11
3rd in NFC EAST



It's all up to Eli Manning whether or not his final season with the New York Giants will end with him riding off into the sunset, or on the bench.

The 38-year-old veteran quarterback, entering his 16th season in the NFL, has been the face of the franchise since he took over for Kurt Warner in the middle of the 2004 season.

Now, it's Daniel Jones lurking offstage, ready to step in when called upon.

For Manning, he's on his last legs as a pro, but a newly-bolstered offensive line should give him more time in the pocket compared to year's past.

Will he take advantage of it? That remains to be seen. But the ol' slinger's spot under center is on shaky ground.

Regardless of who is under

center — and Jones made a strong case to start in an impressive preseason outing — the Giants offense is going to run through second-year phenom running back Saquon Barkley.

Largely hailed as one of the top rushers in the league, Barkley is expected to get upwards of 360 touches this season as an explosive back and reliable receiver.

With a less-than-impressive group of wide receivers, especially with Golden Tate's four-game suspension to start the season, the Giants' aerial game will rely heavily on Barkley, slot receiver Sterling Shepard and tight end Evan Engram.

Engram has shown hints of breaking out into a star and he'll get plenty of chances to do so this season.



GANG GREEN'S NEW DYNAMIC DUO

2019 STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

.473
WINNING% LAST YEAR

SCHEDULE RANK

28th
TOUGHEST SCHEDULE

METRO'S PREDICTED RECORD

8-8
2nd in AFC EAST

Here come the New York Jets.

Things are finally looking up for a franchise that has been downtrodden within the depths of mediocrity for what has seemed like decades.

Face-of-the-franchise and golden-boy quarterback Sam Darnold is entering his second year in the league under a new head coach in Adam Gase — who has made it his responsibility to develop the USC product into the next Joe Namath (or better).

In his last act as general manager, Mike Maccagnan brought in Darnold's biggest weapon to date, signing All-Pro rusher Le'Veon Bell to anchor the Jets' backfield.

The dual-threat talent is one of the most dynamic backs in the game,

providing Darnold with an ultimate security blanket as he continues building a relationship with the likes of Robby Anderson, Quincy Enunwa and another new signing in Jamison Crowder.

While there are concerns about Bell's ability to immediately make an impact with the Jets, considering he sat out all of last season amid contract disputes with the Pittsburgh Steelers, the 27-year-old said that "I'll carry 50 times," if Gase gave him the green light.

Darnold and Bell might snag a lot of the attention, but the defense under new coordinator Gregg Williams is looking like quite an imposing unit as well.

The signing of CJ Mosley provided an enormous

boost to the linebacking corps while the drafting of defensive lineman Quinnen Williams gave the Jets one of the best all-around prospects in the class of 2019.

Adding those kinds of talents to a unit that already featured lineman Leonard Williams and flourishing team captain, safety Jamal Adams, and the Jets defense could be one of the more fun groups in the NFL.

Will it be enough to unseat the New England Patriots atop the AFC East?

Probably not.

But the Jets are moving in the right direction and are a few pieces away from becoming a scary threat in the AFC.



GIANTS 2019 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ COWBOYS
SUNDAY, 4:25 PM ET, FOX

WEEK 2 vs. BILLS
9/15, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 3 @ BUCS
9/22, 4:05 PM, FOX

WEEK 4 vs. REDSKINS
9/29, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 5 vs. VIKINGS
10/6, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 6 @ PATRIOTS
10/10, 8:20 PM, FOX

WEEK 7 vs. CARDINALS
10/20, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 8 @ LIONS
10/27, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 9 vs. COWBOYS
11/4, 8:15 PM, ESPN

WEEK 10 @ JETS
11/10, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 11 BYE

WEEK 12 @ BEARS
11/24, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 13 vs. PACKERS
12/1, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 14 @ EAGLES
12/9, 8:15 PM, ESPN

WEEK 15 vs. DOLPHINS
12/15, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 16 @ REDSKINS
12/22, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 17 vs. EAGLES
12/29, 1 PM, FOX

JETS 2019 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 vs. BILLS
SUNDAY, 1 PM ET, CBS

WEEK 2 vs. BROWNS
9/16, 8:15 PM, ESPN

WEEK 3 @ PATRIOTS
9/22, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 4 BYE

WEEK 5 @ EAGLES
10/6, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 6 vs. COWBOYS
10/13, 4:25 PM, CBS

WEEK 7 vs. PATRIOTS
10/21, 8:15 PM, ESPN

WEEK 8 @ JAGUARS
10/27, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 9 @ DOLPHINS
11/3, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 10 vs. GIANTS
11/10, 1 PM, FOX

WEEK 11 @ REDSKINS
11/17, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 12 vs. RAIDERS
11/24, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 13 @ BENGALS
12/1, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 14 vs. DOLPHINS
12/8, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 15 @ RAVENS
12/12, 8:20 PM, FOX

WEEK 16 vs. STEELERS
12/22, 1 PM, CBS

WEEK 17 @ BILLS
12/29, 1 PM, CBS

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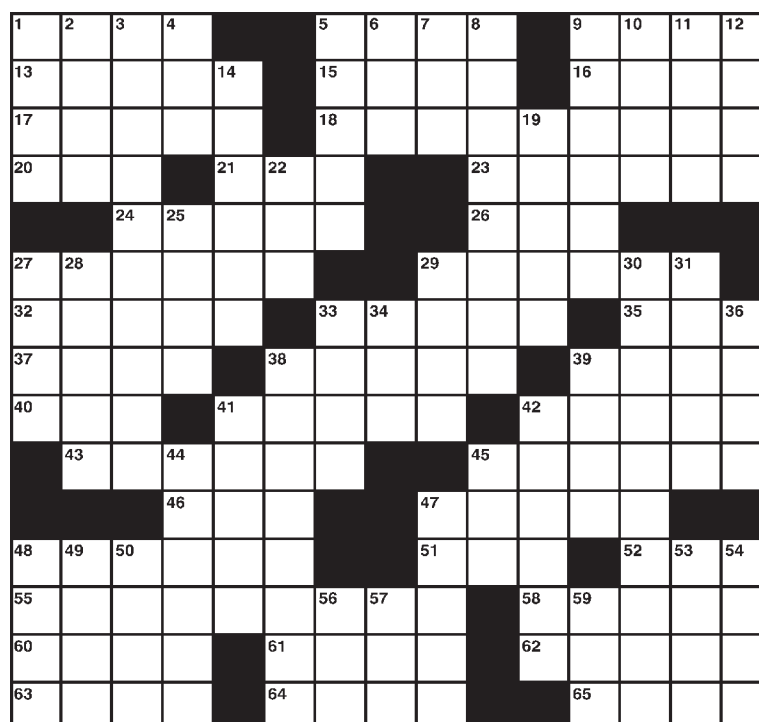
- 1 Word of disgust
5 Ladder piece
9 Take five
13 Coffee sweetener
15 Aspirin or Nuprin
16 Charlie Chaplin's prop
17 Sudden voltage increase
18 Motorist's expense
20 Faucet
21 Gunfighter Holliday
23 Business alliance
24 Two strokes under par
26 Big __; fast-food burger
27 __ over; delivered
29 Slyness
32 Sanctuary table
33 Facial feature
35 __-jongg
37 Skinny
38 QB tackles
39 Youthful
40 Farm bird
41 Line of travel
42 Ice cream portion

- 43 Kathmandu resident
45 Pure; virtuous
46 Get __ of; throw away
47 Wanders
48 St. Francis' home
51 Pen contents
52 "What'll __"; Irving Berlin song
55 Unfinished business
58 Diminished
60 Pea casings
61 Chess piece
62 Coleslaw, e.g.
63 Stick around
64 Convince
65 Baseball team

DOWN

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2 Like the sea
3 Fluid made from pine tree resin
4 Droop
5 Nutmeg or paprika
6 The __ Man; "The Wizard of Oz" role
7 Golfer Ernie
8 Falls fast & straight down
9 Rarely seen
10 Powdered drink

- 11 A single time
12 One's equal
14 Account book
19 Within __; handy
22 Antique
25 West
27 Corned beef concoction
28 Tim or Woody
29 Nobleman
30 Out of the question
31 Fortune-teller's deck
33 Hawaiian island
34 Next month: abbr.
36 Excessive publicity
38 Army personnel
39 Illegal way to make money
41 Elevate
42 Malt shop orders
44 Persnickety
45 Swindle
47 Dangerous
48 "Heidi" setting
49 Chimney residue
50 __ pop; soft drink
53 Deceased
54 2:1, e.g.
56 Presently
57 __ 180; flip-flop
59 Forbid entry to



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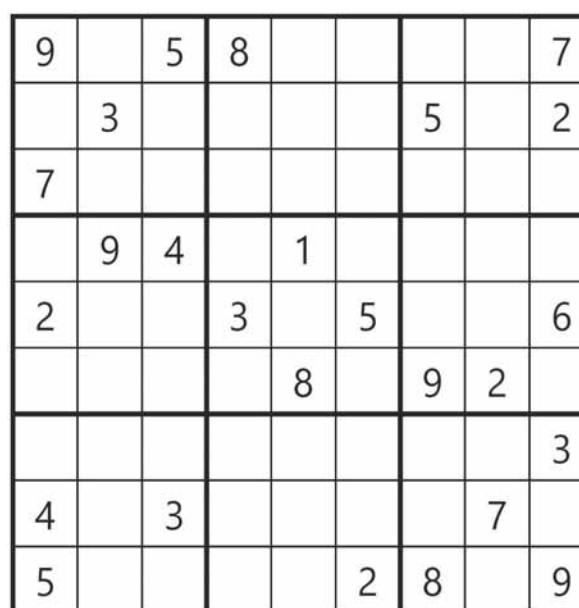
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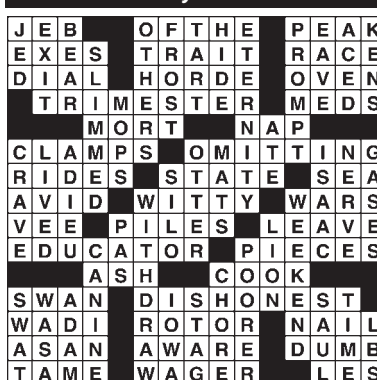
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